

Resolution 2022- 02

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Donald C. Spencer, Clerk  
Santa Rosa County, Florida  
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#2

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA, IN SUPPORT OF AN INCREASE OF THE BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ("BAH") FOR JUNIOR ENLISTED SERVICE MEMBERS; DIRECTING NOTIFICATION TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.**

**WHEREAS**, Santa Rosa County strongly supports enhancing Northwest Florida's contribution to the National Defense; and

**WHEREAS**, Northwest Florida aspires to be the most military friendly community in the most military friendly state in America; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida's First Congressional District is known to have the highest concentration of active duty service member and veterans in America, and

**WHEREAS**; in Santa Rosa County the military mission has specifically supported Whiting, Hurlburt Field and Eglin AFB; and

**WHEREAS**, due to persistent and productive cooperation among County, state and federal leaders, including Governor Ron DeSantis, Senator Marco Rubio, Senator Rick Scott and Congressman Matt Gaetz, the military mission in Northwest Florida is growing, specifically with the expectation that the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act ("NDAA") will bring in excess of \$600 million in direct investment to Northwest Florida, and

**WHEREAS**, the NDAA is poised to fund \$202 Million in rotary wing upgrades and sustainment, as well as \$5 Million for Machine Learning for Army Integrated Fires, \$5 Million for Novel Printed Armament Components, \$107 Million for V-22A's, \$172 Million in Gulf Test range Enhancements, \$100 Million for the construction of the Weapons Integrated. increase of over \$169 M for the US Army Chinook Helicopter where repairs and the body of the Chinook Helicopter are overseen in Crestview, FL. The integrated Solutions for Systems in Niceville, FL received full funding plus and increase of \$10M for Army integrated fires and Novel Printed armaments components greatly enhancing military supply manufacturing for the war fighter; and

**WHEREAS**, the NDAA builds on five years of exponentially increasing military investment in Northwest Florida, including \$1.7 Billion in Military Construction, to include a new Air Traffic Control Tower in Whiting Field, \$1 Million for the TH-57 follow-on training system development, and

**WHEREAS**, Santa Rosa County understands that Northwest Florida's growing military mission will result in more military families residing in Santa Rosa County, which Santa Rosa County welcomes as a value to the economy, culture and fabric of this community, and

**WHEREAS**, the growing military mission will require additional construction on Northwest Florida's military installations, in some cases stressing the physical plant that can accommodate on-base housing for service members; and

**WHEREAS**, Santa Rosa County is a welcome community to host service members for off-base housing solutions; and

**WHEREAS**, service members who seek off-base housing solutions utilize the Basic Allowance for Housing provided by the Department of Defense ("BAH") to resource housing solutions; and

**WHEREAS**, in Santa Rosa County's flourishing economic opportunities, low unemployment, expanding job creation, rising wages and the challenges of the most extreme inflation in over thirty years has resulted in rising rates for annual rental agreements for housing; and

**WHEREAS**, the NDAA observes the unique housing challenges for junior enlisted servicemembers in Northwest Florida as follows: "Due to a lack of on base housing, and tightening of the off base housing market, Basic Allowance for Housing has not kept up with property price increases, placing an undue burden on the men and women in uniform and their families;" and

**WHEREAS**, Department of Defense focus on the housing challenges of junior enlisted service members in Northwest Florida presents a unique opportunity to increase the BAH for those stationed in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, the average rent in Santa Rosa County is \$2,200.00 per month for a single family home; and

**WHEREAS**, the BAH rate is \$1,701.00 per month for an E-5 with Dependents; and

**WHEREAS**, the disparity between the average rent and the BAH rate is \$499.00.

**WHEREAS**, this disparity places a significant burden on the service member and their family, and

**WHEREAS**, this burden reduces the morale and combat effectiveness of the military mission.

**BE IT RESOLVED** That the Board of County Commissioners for Santa Rosa County does fully endorse an increase in the BAH for junior enlisted service members stationed in Northwest Florida. A copy of this resolution will be furnished to the Secretary of Defense and all members of the Florida Congressional Delegation.


**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** by a vote of 5 yeas, 0 nays and 0 absent of the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Rosa County, Florida, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January 2022.

**ATTEST:**



  
Donald C. Spencer, Clerk

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

  
Robert A. "Bob" Cole, Chairman